

the Departments of State and Defense should explore whether such arrangements are advisable. Given the State Department's deep reliance on contractor personnel to manage the ACOTA program and AFRICOM's unique interagency command structure, I believe AFRICOM ought to be given a more significant role in the day-to-day execution of this critical program. Meanwhile, both departments should make efforts to ensure close cooperation between the State Department and AFRICOM personnel so that the taxpayers and partner nations see the maximum bang for the buck because they are a cost-effective way of managing U.S. security interests and supporting U.N. peacekeeping while reserving U.S. troops for other operations.

Having successfully completed the first 5-year phase, GPOI is entering a new phase. I urge my colleagues to support fully the administration's funding request for GPOI. With this money, we can help contain violence and chaos in many of the world's most troubled places. We can reduce the chance for such instability to create direct and immediate threats to our own security. We can enhance the ability of partner nations to maintain the peace in their own sectors of the globe. And we can accomplish all these things with a relatively modest amount of money—an investment with a substantial return, in both human and financial terms.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 86. An act to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3603. An act to rename the Ocmulgee National Monument.

H.R. 3951. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Louisiana Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Roy Rondenno, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 4213. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 125(c)(1) of Public Law 110-343, the minority leader appointed from private life Mr. J. Mark McWatters of Texas as a member of the Congressional Oversight Panel on the part of the House.

At 2:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of con-

ference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3288) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 86. An act to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3603. An act to rename the Ocmulgee National Monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3951. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Louisiana Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Roy Rondenno, Sr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4213. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3966. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Hong Kong; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3967. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Adjustments to the Allowance System for Controlling HCFC Production, Import, and Export" (FRL No. 9091-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3968. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Ban on Sale or Distribution of Pre-Charged Appliances" (FRL No. 9091-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3969. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clothianidin: Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8793-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3970. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act" (FRL No. 9091-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3971. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Changes to the Medicare Claims Appeal Procedures" (RIN0938-AM73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3972. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Application of Certain Appeals Provisions to the Medicare Prescription Drug Appeals Process" (RIN0938-A087) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3973. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2009-0213-2009-0223); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3974. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Chile relative to the design and manufacture of the Sig 556 Rifle in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3975. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-238, "Omnibus Election Reform Amendment Act of 2009"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3976. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-239, "Hospital and Medical Services Corporation Regulatory Amendment Act of 2009"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3977. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3978. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3979. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2009 Agency Financial Report"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.